

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 DODE-00 SS-20 NSC-10 H-03

IO-14 OIC-04 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /137 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9012

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 17310

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, GE, UK, FR, WB, NATO

SUBJECT: PLANNING FOR QUADRIPARTITE DINNER

REF: STATE 232660

1. US REP PRESENTED DEPARTMENT'S THINKING ON QUADRI-PARTITE DINNER (REFTEL) TO UK, FRENCH AND GERMAN REPS NOVEMBER 29, ASKING THAT TIME BE LEFT, FOLLOWING FOUR FOREIGN MINISTERS HANDLING OF BERLIN/GERMANY MATTERS, FOR A MORE GENERAL DISCUSSION OF CURRENT INTERNATIONAL ISSUES.

2. AT NOVEMBER 30 BONN GROUP MEETING, FRENCH REP SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED HIS VIEWS WITH HIS AMBASSADOR WHO FELT THAT BROADENING THE DINNER DISCUSSION TO NON-GERMAN/BERLIN MATTERS WOULD POSE SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES IN THE FOUR'S RELATIONS WITH THE OTHER ALLIES, SINCE WORD OF THE BROADER DISCUSSION WAS SURE TO LEAK OUT. THE FRENCH EMBASSY THEREFORE FELT STRONGLY THAT THE QUAD
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DINNER SHOULD BE RESTRICTED TO THE TRADITIONAL

BERLIN/GERMAN ISSUES. FRG REP SUPPORTED THIS FRENCH POSITION. UK REP TOOK NO POSITION AT ALL: HE HAD INDICATED TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WITH US PROPOSAL THE PREVIOUS DAY, BUT WAS OBVIOUSLY STILL WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS FROM LONDON.

3. AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND SUBSEQUENTLY WAS IN TOUCH WITH STATE SECRETARY FRANK TO INQUIRE ABOUT REASONS FOR FRG POSITION. FRANK SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD ARRANGEMENTS WERE BEING MADE FOR THE EC-9 FOREIGN MINISTERS TO MEET WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER IN BRUSSELS ON THE AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER 9. FRANK THOUGHT THIS MIGHT PROVIDE THE APPROPRIATE FORUM FOR A DISCUSSION OF ISSUES GOING BEYOND BERLIN/GERMANY CONCERNS. FRANK SAID HE THOUGHT EVERY EFFORT HAD TO BE MADE BY THE FOUR POWERS NOT TO GIVE THE OTHER ALLIES THE IMPRESSION THAT THE FOUR WERE SETTING THEMSELVES UP AS A STEERING GROUP FOR NATO. (HE CITED THE RECENT ITALIAN IRRITATION OVER BEING LEFT OUT OF THE QUADRIPARTITE FINANCIAL MEETING IN TOURS.) FRANK SAID HE CONSIDERED IT IMPORTANT THAT THE FORMAL PART OF THE QUADRIPARTITE DINNER AGENDA BE LIMITED TO BERLIN AND GERMAN MATTERS. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS WOULD NOT EXCLUDE OTHER SUBJECTS BEING DISCUSSED AFTERWARD: ANY FOREIGN MINISTER WAS OBVIOUSLY FREE TO RAISE WHATEVER SUBJECT HE WISHED. AS FOR THE MATTER OF LIMITING THE ATTENDANCE AT THE MORE GENERAL DISCUSSION, FRANK SAID THIS WAS UP TO THE MINISTERS, OF COURSE, BUT THAT THE ENTIRE NON-BERLIN/GERMAN PART OF THE DINNER WOULD HAVE TO BE HANDLED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO AVOID THE SUGGESTION THAT OTHER THAN PURELY BERLIN/GERMAN MATTERS WERE TO BE CONSIDERED.

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4. EMBASSY POLITICAL COUNSELOR WAS SUBSEQUENTLY IN TOUCH WITH FRENCH MINISTER TO DETERMINE HOW FIXED FRENCH POSITION APPEARED TO BE. FRENCH MINISTER SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE FRENCH POSITION IN THE BONN GROUP REPRESENTED HIS EMBASSY'S VIEWS, HE WAS ENTIRELY CONVINCED THAT THESE COULD BE SHARED BY PARIS.

5. COMMENT: THE GERMANS ARE CLEARLY CONCERNED THAT THE QUORIPARTITE DINNER NOT TAKE ON ANY ASPECT OF A FOUR POWER DIRECTORATE FOR NATO, AND WISH TO AVOID ANY FORMALIZING OF ANY POST-DINNER DISCUSSION ON OTHER THAN BERLIN/GERMAN PROBLEMS. THEY ARE ALSO PREPARED, HOWEVER, TO CARRY OUT THE BROADER DISCUSSIONS IN A CONFIDENTIAL MANNER.

6. THE FRENCH POSITION SEEMS TO US TO PRESENT THE MAIN STUMBLING BLOCK. IF DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS IT ADVISABLE, CONFIDENTIAL

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IT MAY WISH TO TAKE MATTER UP WITH FRENCH IN WASHINGTON AND/OR PARIS.

7. IN THE MEANTIME, CONCERNING THE BERLIN/GERMANY PART OF THE DINNER, IT WAS TENTATIVELY AGREED THAT THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS WOULD BE DISCUSSED, WITH FRG FONMIN SCHEEL LEADING THE DISCUSSION:

A. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE QUADRIpartite AGREEMENT.

B. WEST GERMANY'S RELATIONS WITH THE EAST EUROPEAN STATES, INCLUDING THE GDR.

C. THE NATO COMMUNIQUE LANGUAGE ON BERLIN AND GERMANY.

HILLENBRAND

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